





Then again, cavalry costs twice as much as the infantry to maintain, there being as horse as well as a man to account and keep. By an Imperial Ordinance issued in the 23rd year of Meiji (1890) it was provided that battalions of cavalry consisting of three troops should be established in each district, and the provision has not been carried into effect owing to the great cost it would entail.

The Daily Telegraph says that Lord Brassey is the right man to rule China. Lord Brassey is the Earl of the Earl of Hopetoun as Governor of Victoria.

## THE THEORETICAL EXPENSE.

LONDON, 15th January.

Mrs. Besant, in a letter to the *Daily Chronicle*, states that she was galled by the message of Mr. Wm. T. Jevons, vice-president of the Royal Statistical Society, which had been published in the *Times* of yesterday, concerning the cost of the war. The money granted will provide for 3000 troops, but there is far from being a sufficient finance.

The Japanese cavalry should be raised to the strength of one division to each division—Japan Mail

## THE SCHOOLBOY AT HOME.

The pale woman may be "new" to the tastes of Society; but the schoolboy on Christmas holidays is (says a writer in the *Field*) an older establishment, than any of us, and his characteristics may exhibit but very little variety.

The boy of yesterday is the man of to-day. He is still much the same as when John Bull depicted him as enjoying the prospect of to-morrow; but the thereby admitted world would be a hopeless impossibility; or as when he incurred his older sister's and irritated their admirers by intruding at inopportune moments upon sweet converse and critical situations. There are still, as ever, many domestic circles wherein the prospect of the commencement of Post Office holidays is looked upon with a trepidation which is not without cause; but otherwise natural impulses of family affection and the termination of the holiday intervals in any case welcomed as a respite from domestic pugnacity. We do not expect to find every schoolboy a Paul and every elder sister a Florence Dombey; but there is a scope for compromise between the two contractions and to often even that which is not so. An older sister, who has been entreated by her mother with the responsibility of some of the minor domestic duties, sees a step towards her future elevation for wisdom, too often laudable as fussy tyrannical to a young pick'le brother as the proverbial sergeant to the raw recruit. Tom longs into the house, and thoughtlessly tosses his violin and piano forte; then divests his hands into his pockets and shows some campaign of mischief, or settles down to a "slight shocker." In comes older sister, and, in view of her prerogative for tidiness, pushes in the offending cap and toises it into a cupboard, leaving Tom to play hide-and-seek for his headgear for the rest of the afternoon. If eventually he traces the disappearance of his article of attire to the juvenile "Martha," he meets with no sympathy, and the inconvenience of his hopeless quest and his search with a grim lecture upon the merits of "a place every where, everything in its place." These are links to human foibles, and we do not wonder if in time the worms turn, and Tom ventures himself by making an apple-pie bed for his consigned sister, and causes her to rouse the household about 11 p.m. by hysterical fright at finding his little bristles prickling her bare foot at the conclusion that she had been porcupine for a hell-haw. Then Tom is led to his coal at breakfast next morning, and thereupon considers himself entitled to sit, and to braise over new coals during the ensuing day. Once off the rails in this way, it is but reasonable that his irritated spirits should find vent in making a pandemonium of the schoolroom tea-table, and in graving a verdict of *enfant terrible* on the young sister's French governess. An attempt is then made to legate to Tom with the other members of the family, where he can be under stronger caption. If it were not that this change of scene is felt by him to be no promotion for good conduct, but the reverse, he might have taken kind to the alteration; as it is, he is ill at ease with himself, and begins to feel that holidays are not the best time for the settlement of his school days, when Tom is led to count the days to the end of school term, and to count off daily one more date from the calendar of probation. As to meal times, Tom is generally late, especially for breakfast. The only morning when the country rector circle saw him down in time for family prayers during the winter was the one when he got up of his own accord at half-past eight in order to see a pig killed in the back yard, and to have a holiday's exposure and Tom is led to his bed with his brother's expressions of affliction; family favour will be tempered with mutual feelings of relief at the expiration of a period of purgatory.

## THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The following telegrams are from Australian papers received by the steamer *Catterline*—THE PACIFIC CANALS—AN AMERICAN LINE TO HAWAII.

LONDON, 12th January. The Republican party in the United States Congress advocates the granting of a subsidy to an American cable to Hawaii in preference to giving England an island, adjacent to Hawaii, for a cable station with the proposed Pacific cable.

LONDON, 14th January. The new Atlantic steam service.

LONDON, 14th January. In the course of an interview Sir J. Mackenzie Bawell, President of the party, stated that the Dominion Government would aid in the establishment of Mr. James Huddart's new steam service between Canada and England to the utmost of their power.

LONDON, 14th January. The Irish Parliamentary Fund, Mr. J. F. L. for South Mayo, declares that before the party the Radical committee collected, with the support of the late Mr. Parnell, £3,500, which the party declined to accept after Mr. Parnell's death, but it accepted £2,000 from Lord Tweedmouth, whom he was a member of the House of Commons, for the relief of the distressed tenantry.

LONDON, 14th January. The increase in the German navy.

LONDON, 14th January. The two men who were charged with having attempted to poison King Alexander of Servia have been tried at Belgrade. They were acquitted.

THE MINING DISASTER IN STAFFORDSHIRE. LONDON, 15th January. A disaster has occurred at the Gilgate Colliery, Audley, in Staffordshire.

By a sudden rush of water into the workings 251 miners have been entombed. One hundred and forty others who were also beneath the surface at the time were rescued.

LONDON, 15th January. All hope of rescuing the miners entombed in the Gilgate colliery, Audley, in Staffordshire, which has been flooded by a sudden rush of water into the workings, has been abandoned. There are 73 men in the mine, and they are believed to have been drowned.

LONDON, 15th January. The new Governor of Victoria.

LONDON, 15th January. The *Post* *Mail* *Gazette* is in error in its appointment of Lord Brassey as Governor of Victoria in succession to the Earl of Hopetoun.

Lord Brassey's special knowledge of the questions of federation and Imperial defence will make his appointment a benefit to all Australia.

The *Star*, *James's* *Gazette* suggests that Lord Brassey is to be appointed to the Cabinet in the place of the Earl of Hopetoun.

For the past 100 years a century there has been one continual series of terrible human calamities to the world, and the world has been affected by them. The world has been affected by them.

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